

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 03779 220711Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
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-----075668 220733Z /17

R 220507Z MAY 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2116  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
US MISSION USUN  
USICA WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 3779

E. O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PLO, UN, SA  
SUBJ: SAUDI PAPER SUPPORTS PLO RECOGNITION OF UN RESOLUTION 242

1. LEAD STORY IN MAY 20 ARABIC-LANGUAGE OKAZ (FROM INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICES) REPORTS FROM DAMASCUS THAT PLO IS DISCUSSING THE ACCEPTANCE OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 "AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PEACE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST."

2. QUOTING UNNAMED PALESTINIAN SOURCES, PAPER SAYS THAT QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS BEING DISCUSSED FOLLOWING SERIES OF PLO COMMAND COUNCIL MEETINGS IN DAMASCUS. AT THESE MEETINGS, TALKS WERE CONDUCTED ABOUT TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION, FIRST, FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE WHICH WOULD RECOGNIZE RESOLUTION 242 BUT NOT REQUIRE THIS RECOGNITION FROM OTHER SECTIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION, AND SECOND, CANCELLING IDEA OF GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE AND DEFINING NEW WORKING STRATEGY FOR  
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THE FUTURE.

3. PAPER QUOTES SAME PALESTINIAN SOURCES AS SAYING THAT THERE WILL BE IMPORTANT CHANGES WITHIN FATAH ORGANIZATION AND WITHIN MILITARY SIDE OF PLO. ALL MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES OF PLO WILL BE PUT UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE MILITARY SECTION COMMAND TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF RECENT INCIDENTS

IN SOUTH LEBANON. SPECIFICALLY, YASER ARFAT WILL GATHER ALL THE STRINGS OF LEADERSHIP IN HIS OWN HANDS AFTER THE CLASHES IN TYRE BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND THE FRENCH FORCES ASSIGNED TO UNIFIL.

4. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN SAME PAPER GIVES STRONG SUPPORT TO IDEA OF PLO ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242. AVOIDING MUCH OF THE CONVOLUTED PHRASEOLOGY COMMON TO SAUDI POLITICAL COMMENTARY, THE PAPER NOTES THAT IT WAS MISTAKE FOR ARAB STATES AND PALESTINIANS TO INITIALLY REJECT RESOLUTION 242 ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DID NOT INCLUDE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. WHEN ARAB STATES DID ACCEPT 242. CONFUSION BETWEEN UN RESOLUTION AND PALESTINIAN RESOLUTION OF RABAT SUMMIT PREVENTED APPLICATION OF EITHER ONE. AND GAVE ISRAELIS EXCUSES FOR FURTHER DELAYS AND EVASIONS.

5. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, "THIS DISCUSSION (OF RECOGNITION) IN ITSELF REPRESENTS A PRACTICAL STEP TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AREA-- A SOLUTION WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE PALESTINIAN SITUATION WHICH WAS NOT DEALT WITH IN THE UN RESOLUTION."

6. COMMENT: NO OTHER LOCAL PAPER, ENGLISH OR ARABIC, CARRIED INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE STORY ABOUT PLO DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF 242. NOR HAVE WE SEEN ANY COMMENTARY EXCEPT OKAZ EDITORIAL. EMBASSY WILL  
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REPORT FURTHER SAUDI COMMENTARY ON THIS DEVELOPMENT.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PALESTINIANS, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS  
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**Review Markings:**  
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